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## **Senate approves \$2 million for dam removal project**

**LANSING** – The Senate today approved the Department of Natural Resources budget which includes funding to speed the removal of three dams on the Kalamazoo River, said Sen. Tom George, R-Texas Township.

The budget provides an additional \$2 million from the Clean Michigan Initiative Clean Water Fund for the removal of the Otsego, Plainwell and Trowbridge dams on the Kalamazoo River.

“Removing these three dams would be a first step to returning the river to its natural state,” George said. “This site is one of the largest superfund sites in the nation. Providing this funding is important to cleaning up the river.”

Negotiations between local, federal and state officials to remove these dams have been ongoing for more than 20 years. Cleanup costs have been estimated at more than \$1 billion. The federal government retains the authority over the clean-up though the state owns the dams and is responsible for their condition.

The budget also provides for recovery of the dam removal costs from responsible parties by the department and allows for their restoration to the budget once acquired.

The DNR budget now goes to the House for approval.

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